

ELECTRONIC TABLET

ABSTRACT

[37] An electronic viewing tablet is provided with a uni-body display and touch screen system. The device includes a large display, connectors for USB, flash ROM ports (such as Smart Media, Compact Flash and Secure Digital/Multi-Media Flash) protected behind a waterproof access door, a wireless network interface, a momentary contact switch and a waterproof access panel for servicing the internal battery. An inductive charging system may be provided to recharge an internal battery. A microprocessor based electronic communication and control system controls the electronic components of the device. The electronic tablet allows a user to acquire content and applications on a personal computer or network or purchase data and images on removable flash media. Applications, data and images (electronic books, magazines, newspapers, text files, sheet music and "printed" files) may be downloaded to the tablet through a USB connector, a wireless connection, or through a ROM port. Once loaded onto the tablet, written material may be read wherever the user chooses, independent of the computer or network. A user interface presents simple commands to the user, presented in a graphical fashion on a display, allowing the user to navigate the information stored in the device and execute the applications that are present. Soft buttons on the touch screen allow the user to interact with the tablet.